



Comptroller General
of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20548

Decision

Matter of: Literature for Kids & Adults

File: B-270606

Date: November 29, 1995

DECISION

Literature for Kids & Adults protests the award of a contract by the Department of the Air Force under solicitation No. F05604-95-T-P331.

We dismiss the protest as untimely because it was filed more than 14 calendar days after the protester knew, or should have known, of the basis for its protest. Literature states that it was notified of the contract award on November 7, 1995; however, our Office did not receive the protest until November 27, more than 14 calendar days later.

Our Bid Protest Regulations contain strict rules requiring timely submission of protests. Under these rules, protests not based upon alleged improprieties in a solicitation must be filed no later than 14 calendar days after the protester knew, or should have known, of the basis for protest, whichever is earlier. Section 21.2(a)(2), 60 Fed. Reg. 40,737, 40,740 (Aug. 10, 1995) (to be codified at 4 C.F.R. § 21.2(a)(2)). In this regard, a protester's receipt of oral information forming the basis of its protest is sufficient to start the 14-day time period running; written notification is not required. Swafford Indus., B-238055, Mar. 12, 1990, 90-1 CPD ¶ 268.

Our timeliness rules reflect the dual requirements of giving parties a fair opportunity to present their cases and resolving protests expeditiously without unduly disrupting or delaying the procurement process. Air Inc.-Request for Recon., B-238220.2, Jan. 29, 1990, 90-1 CPD ¶ 129. In order to prevent those rules from becoming meaningless, exceptions are strictly construed and rarely used. Id.

The protest is dismissed.

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